

SUBAB

This invention relates to an automated control system and method that furnishes viewers with individualized editing and retrieval capabilities over the length of a variable content video program in order to produce a transparently continuous and complete show. The system capabilities include an automated flexible control system design that enables an operator to selectively apply editing criteria to the variety of subject matter that may be contained within the program. The system also includes an automated capability for efficiently editing program scenes of pre-identified categories of subject matter and a capability for determining the inclusion in the program seen by the viewer.

Finally, the control system provides a key word search/program retrieval facility from an existing program database, and a requesting capability for producing a program according to viewer-specified requirements.

Finally, the control system provide a keyword/menu segment/program retrieval facility from an existing program and program database, and a requesting capability for programs to be produced according to viewer-specified requirements.